

Peterson, Bobbye

From: Brandy hahaGray <avionj10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 10:58 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Petition against the legalization of Marijuana

ISSUE: Damage to Children and Teens

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Brandy Gray and I am from New London, CT. I oppose SB 1085 that would legalize marijuana for "recreation".

I am concerned about this bill because through my own personal experience, I have watched a nephew of mine whom smoked Marijuana at the age of 12 and over the years became highly addicted to the point where he became angry and violent when he didn't have it. In the past 3 years or so he was forced to stop due to legal issues and a mandatory jail sentence and started to show signs of psychotic episodes, to the point he would hear voices and developed paranoia. Throughout this time period of his young life he has been to jail multiple times and had numerous legal issues due to the selling and using of Marijuana that it has paralyzed his willingness, and motivation to want anything better for himself. This in my book is a tragedy and an epidemic for our young generation, and it stunts their desires to achieve higher education, moral standards, and personal values.

The marijuana industry is very dismissive of harm to youth because they say marijuana use is illegal for those under 21. The alcohol and tobacco industries have been equally dismissive, giving little effort to prevent youth from using either. I dismiss their brush-off.

Here is a partial list of potential risks of marijuana's adverse effects on children, teens, and the unborn exposed while the mother is pregnant. These risks are well documented in hundreds of scientific articles:

Addiction Damage to memory, cognition, learning, motivation, IQ Psychosis

Lower graduation rates Impaired attention Driving impairment Slower reaction times

(World Health, Substance Abuse Journal, Lancet Psychiatry, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Addiction, etc.)

Use during pregnancy may result in:

Heart defects in babies Stillbirth Impaired cognitive function and attention

Increased risks of addiction Decreased academic achievement

(B. Madras, Harvard Medical School, 2016)

Our Youth Risk Behavior Surveys in CT show that marijuana use equaled and in some towns has exceeded that of alcohol use. Youth use in CO increased **20%** in the two years after legalization. It has started to decrease a little but is still **35%** greater than the national average. (National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2015/16)

For the sake of our children, teens and babies, please vote **NO** on SB 1085.

Sincerely,

Brandy Gray
New London